

# **Coupling methods under a backward Ricci flow**

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# §1 Framework

$M$ :  $m$ -dim. manifold,  $0 \leq T_1 < T_2 \leq \infty$

$(g(t))_{t \in [T_1, T_2]}$ : smooth complete

Riemannian metrics on  $M$



$(X(t))_{t \in [T_1, T_2]}$ :  $g(t)$ -Brownian motion, i.e.

$$f(t, X(t)) - f(T_1, X(T_1))$$

$$- \int_{T_1}^t \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial s} + \Delta_{g(s)} \right) f(s, X(s)) ds$$

is a local martingale for  $\forall f$ : smooth

(Construction: [Coulibaly '09] via SDE on  $\mathcal{F}(M)$ )

## **§2 Coupling by reflection**

## Theorem 1 [K. '10]

Suppose  $\exists K \in \mathbb{R}$  s.t.

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$\Rightarrow \exists (X_1(t), X_2(t))$ : coupling of  $g(t)$ -BMs s.t.

$$\mathbb{P}[X_1(s) \neq X_2(s) \text{ for } T_1 \leq s \leq t]$$

$$\leq \mathbb{P} \left[ \inf_{T_1 \leq s \leq t} U_{d_{g(T_1)}(X_1(0), X_2(0))}(s) > 0 \right]$$

where  $U_a(t)$  solves  $U_a(T_1) = a$  and

$$dU_a(t) = 2\sqrt{2}dW(t) - KU_a(t)dt$$

## Remarks

- Heuristically,

$$“d_{g(t)}(X_1(t), X_2(t)) \leq U(t)” \Rightarrow \text{Thm}$$

- Thm implies the following gradient estimate:

$$|dP_{T_1, t} f|_{g(T_1)} \leq \sqrt{\frac{K}{2\pi(e^{K(t-T_1)} - 1)}} \|f\|_\infty$$

( backward Ricci flow ( $K = 0$  & “=” in  $(\star)$ )  
  $\Rightarrow$  [Coulibaly '09] via stoch. diff. geom. )

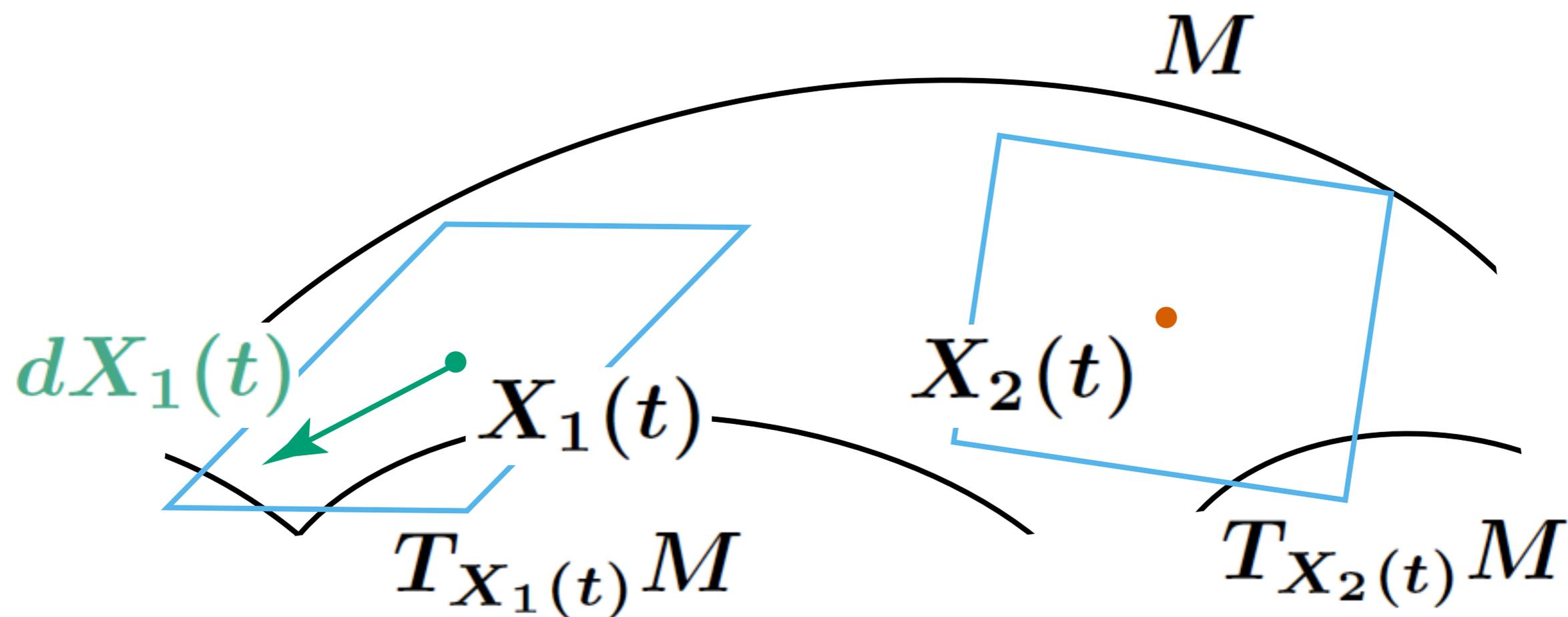
## **§3 Idea of the proof**

Construct  $(X_1(t), X_2(t))$

where  $dX_2(t) = \text{"(local) reflection"}$  of  $dX_1(t)$

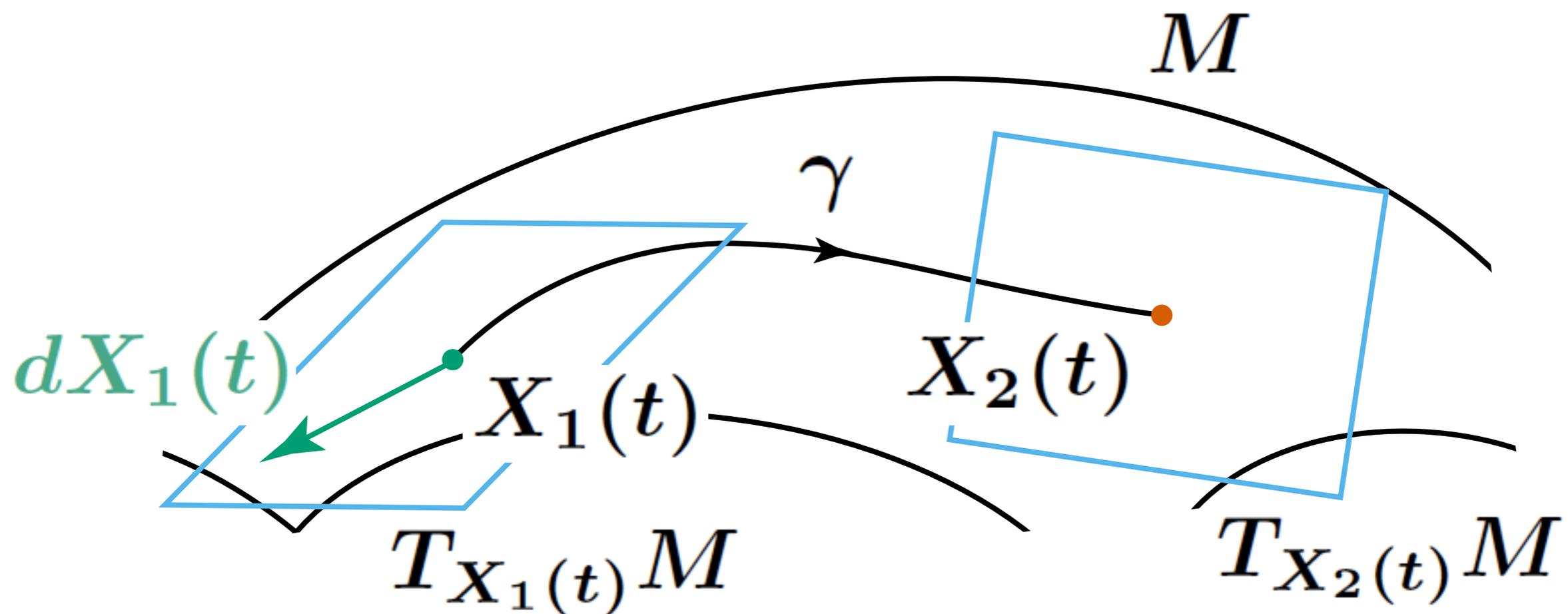
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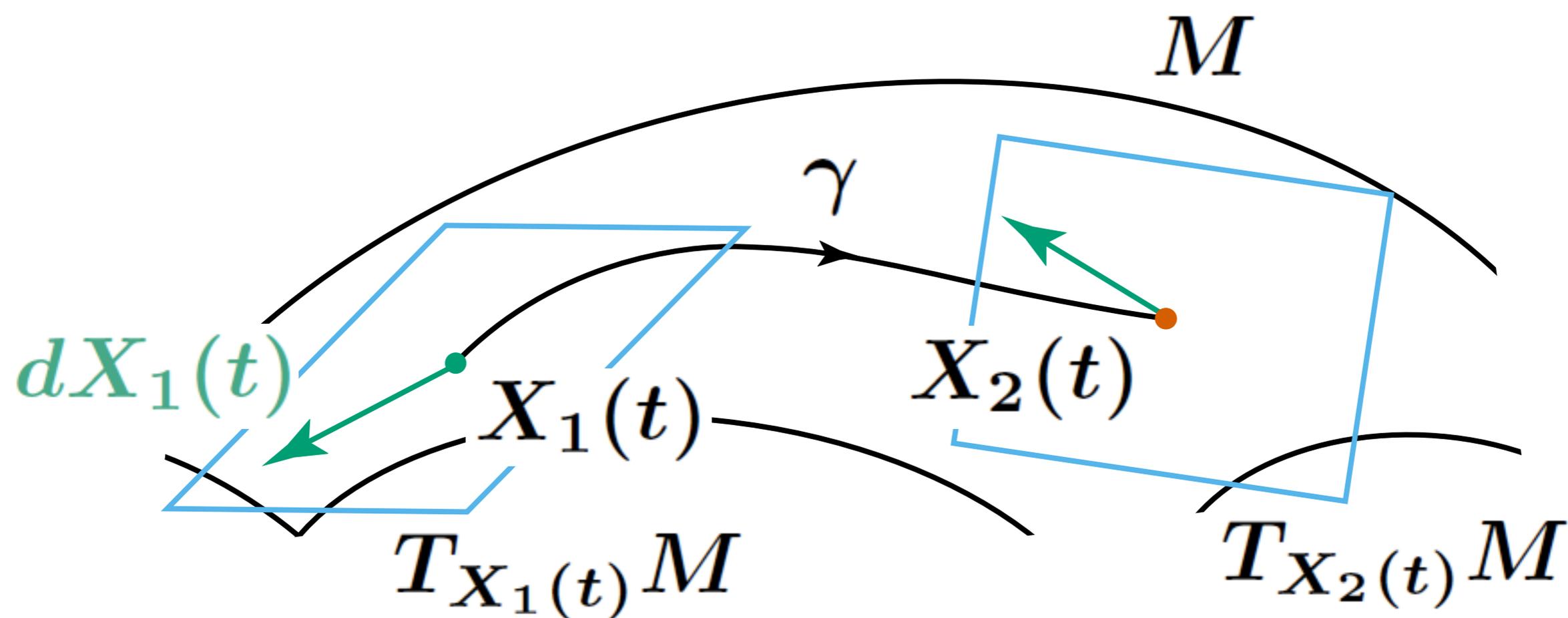
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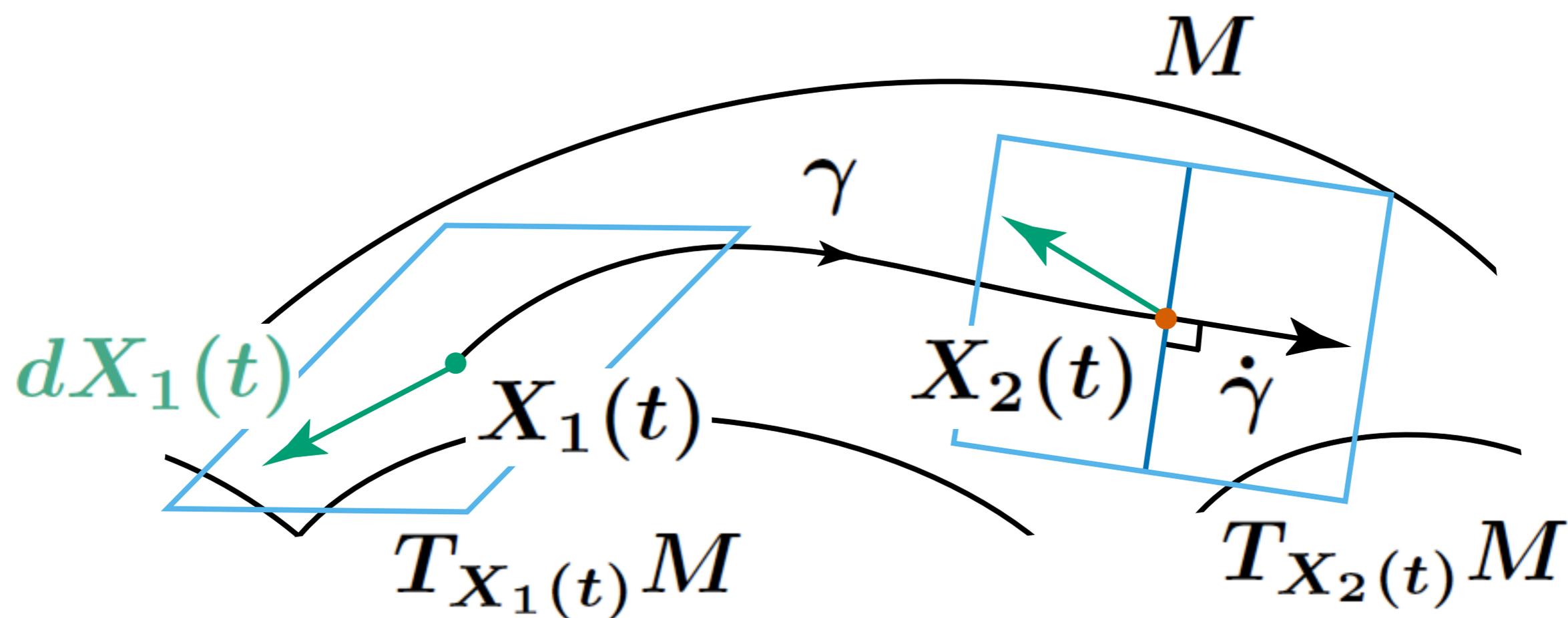
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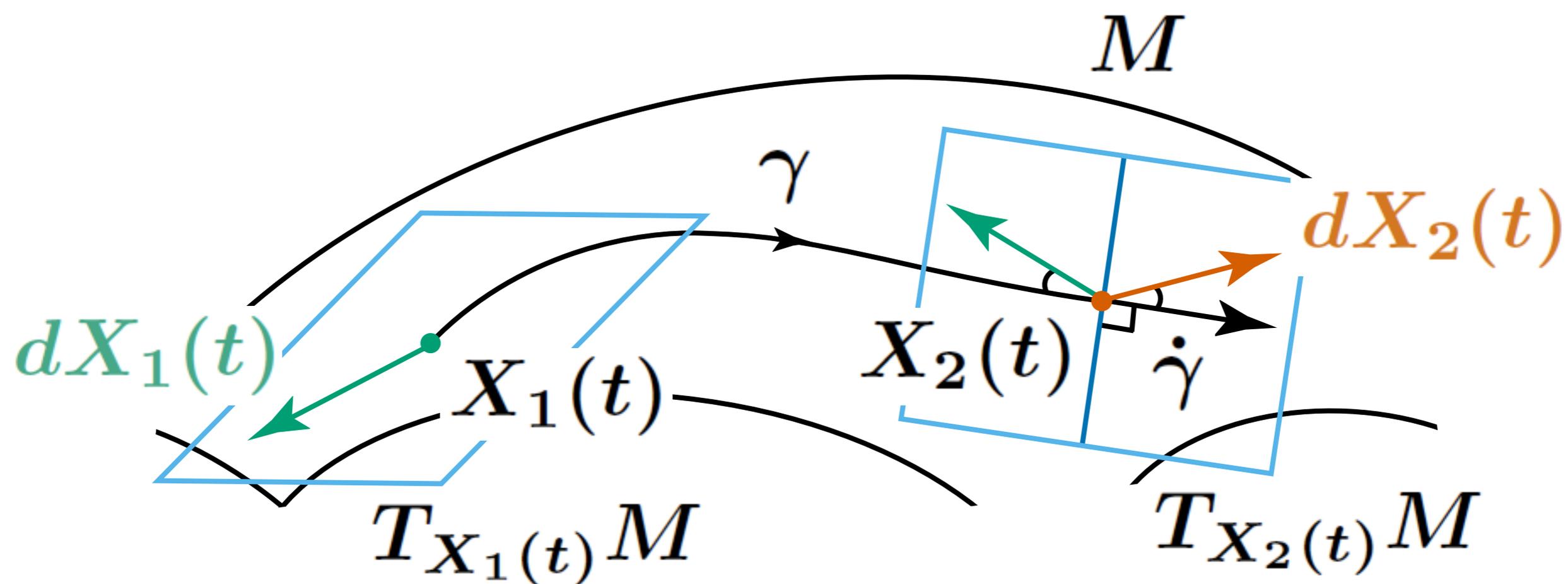
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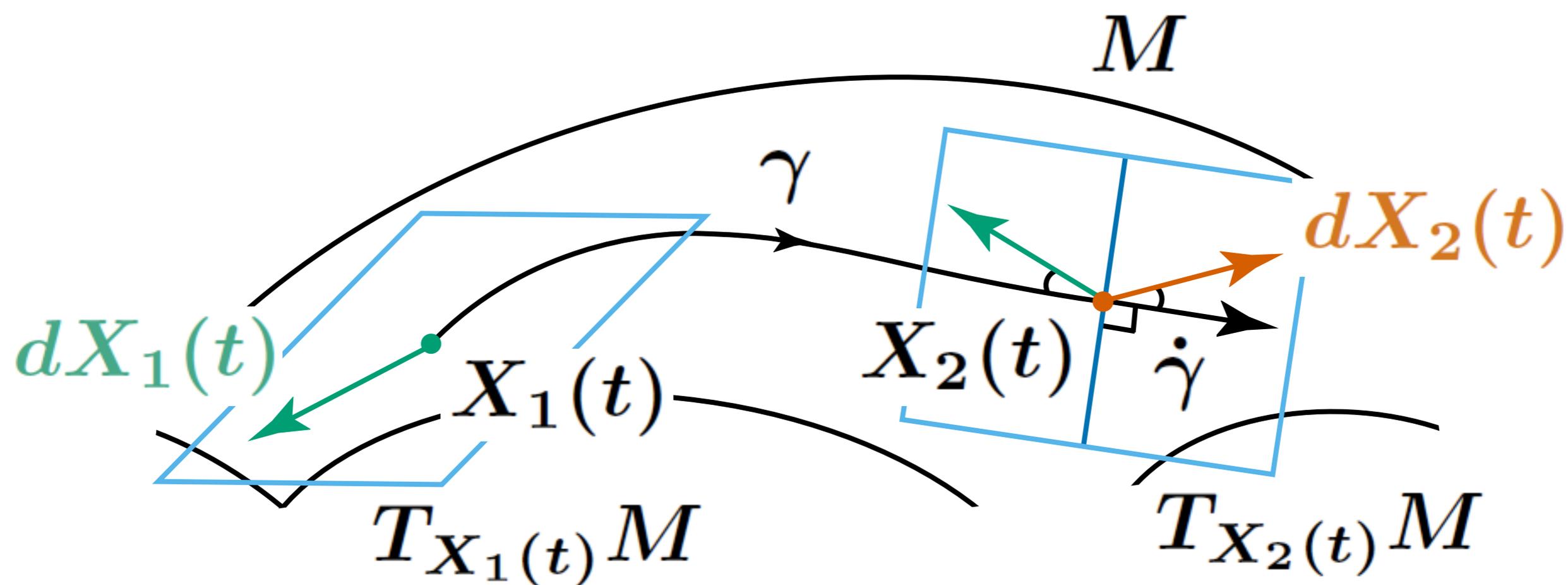


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$\Rightarrow$  For  $\rho(t) := d_{g(t)}(X_1(t), X_2(t))$ ,

$$d\rho(t) = 2\sqrt{2}dW(t) + dA_t - dL_t$$



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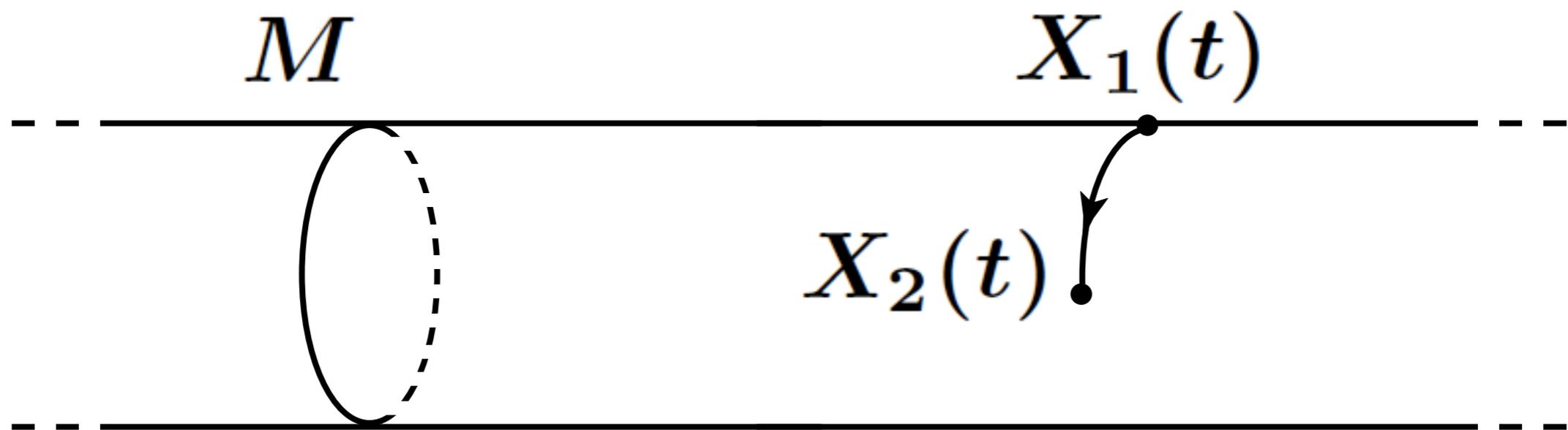
- (reflection)  $\rightsquigarrow 2\sqrt{2}dW(t)$
- $(\star) \Rightarrow dA_t \leq -K\rho(t)dt$
- $L_t \geq 0$ : “local time” at singular points of  $d_g(t)$

$$\Rightarrow \rho(t) \leq U(t)$$

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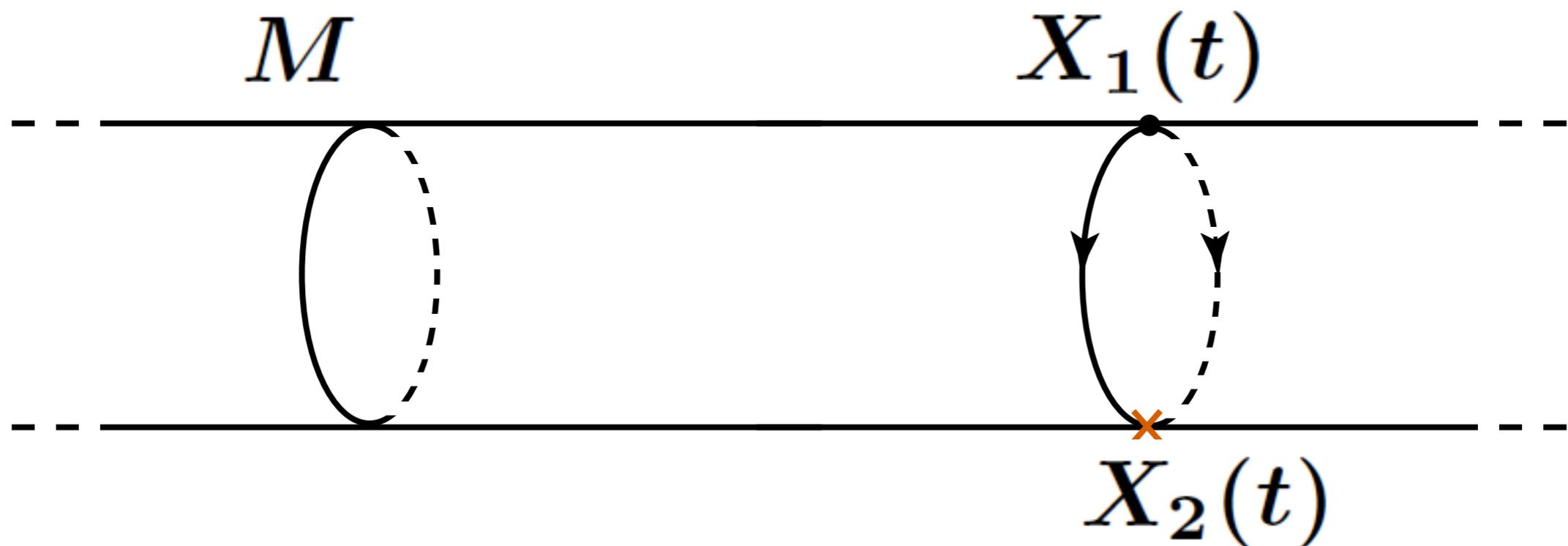
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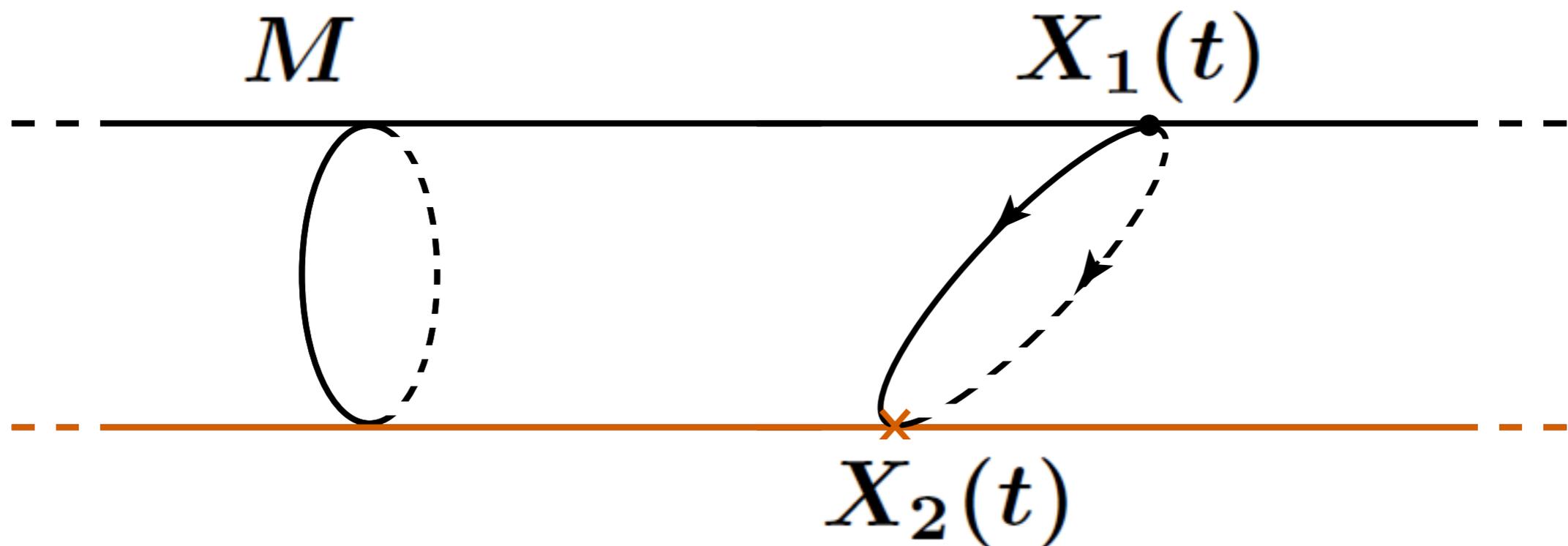
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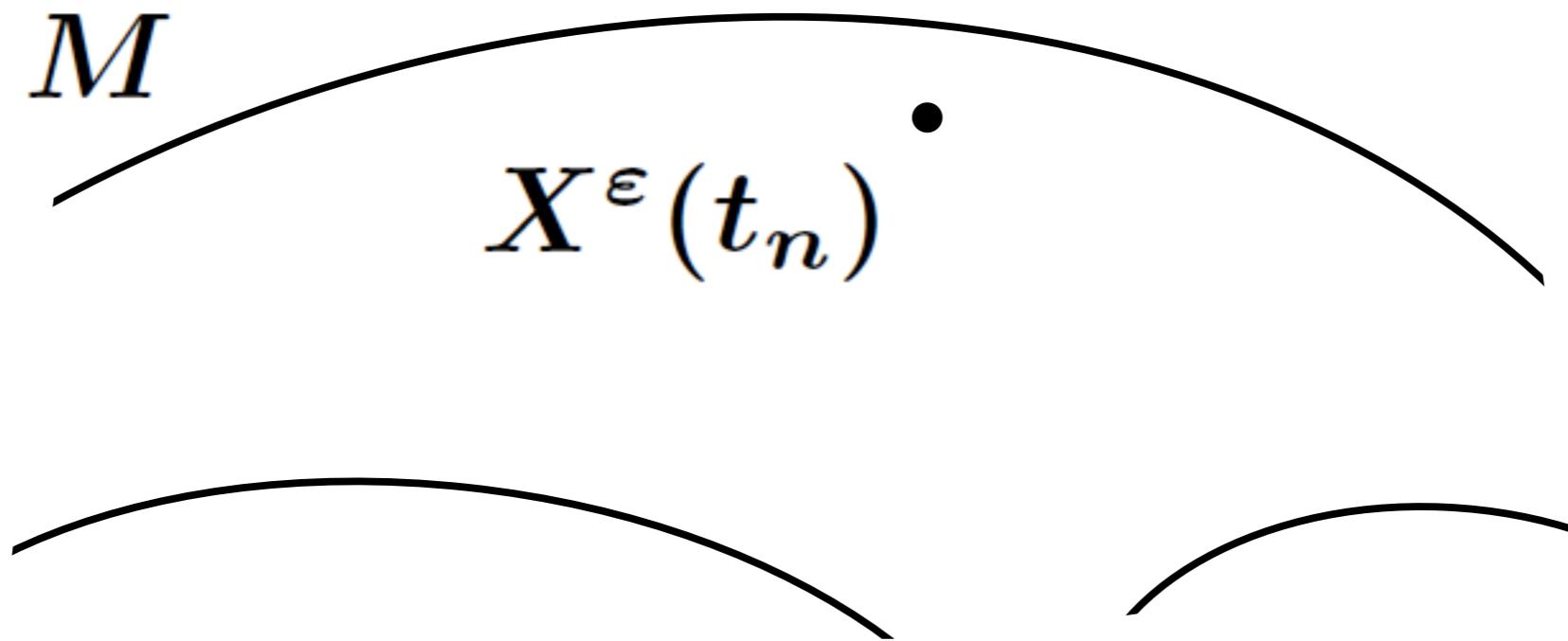
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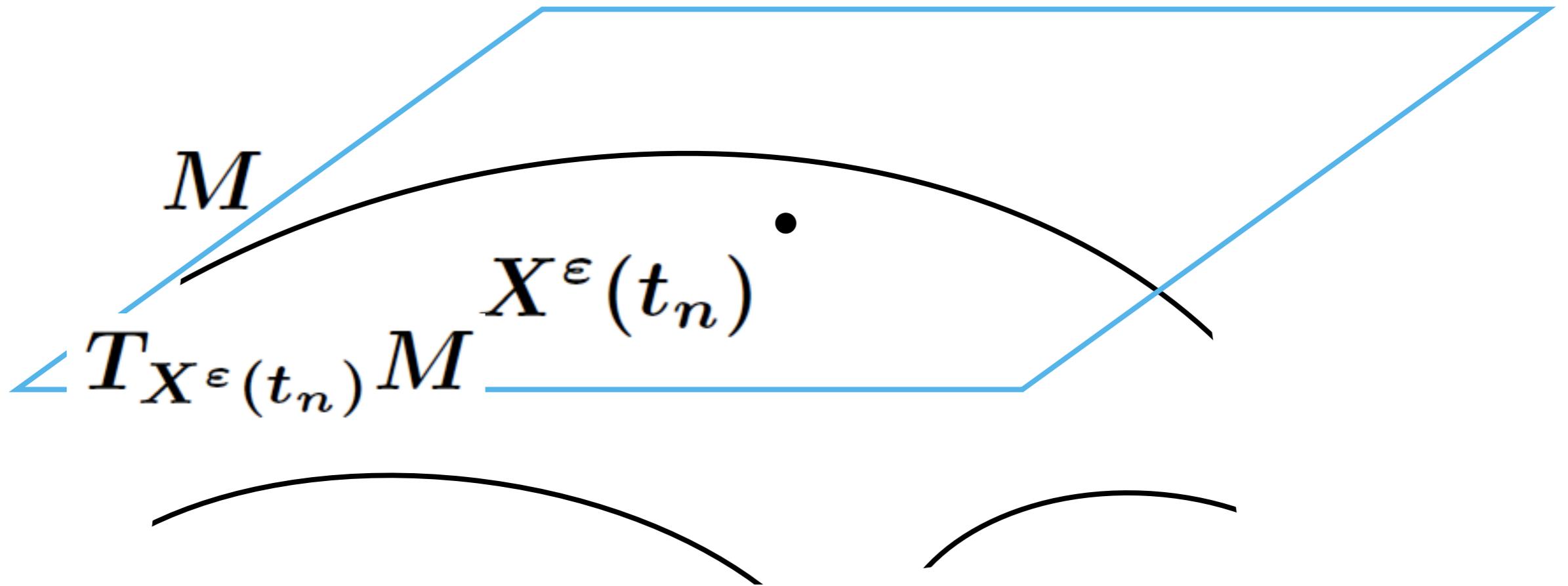


Approximation by coupled RWs  $(X_1^\varepsilon(t), X_2^\varepsilon(t))$

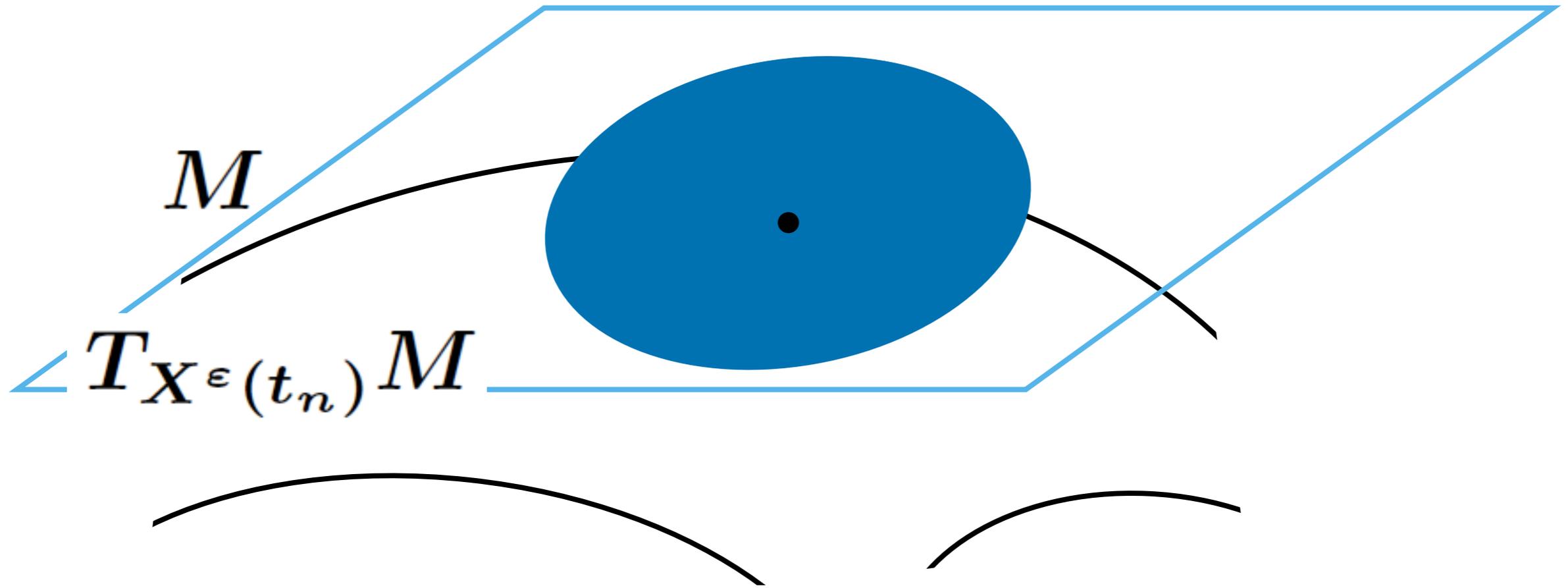
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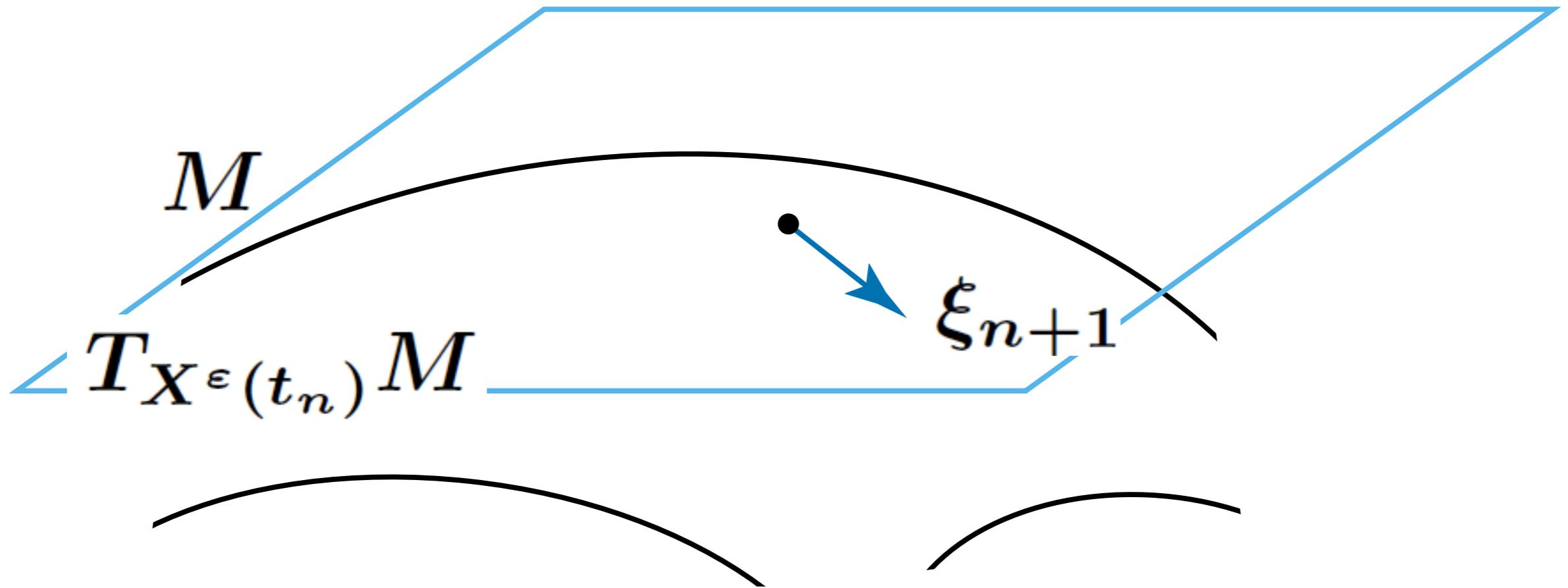
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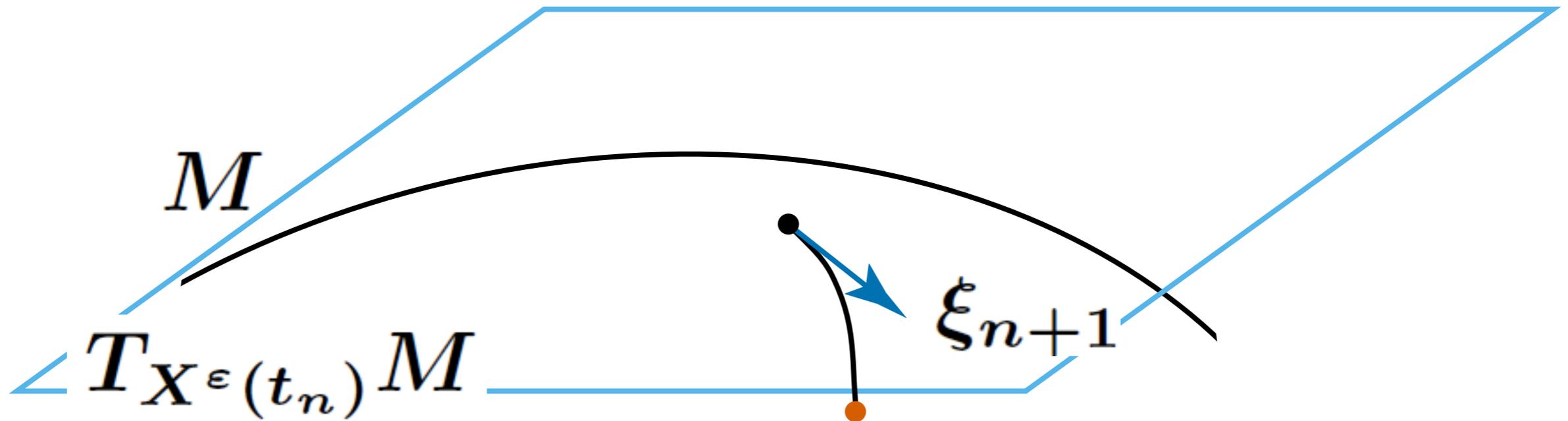
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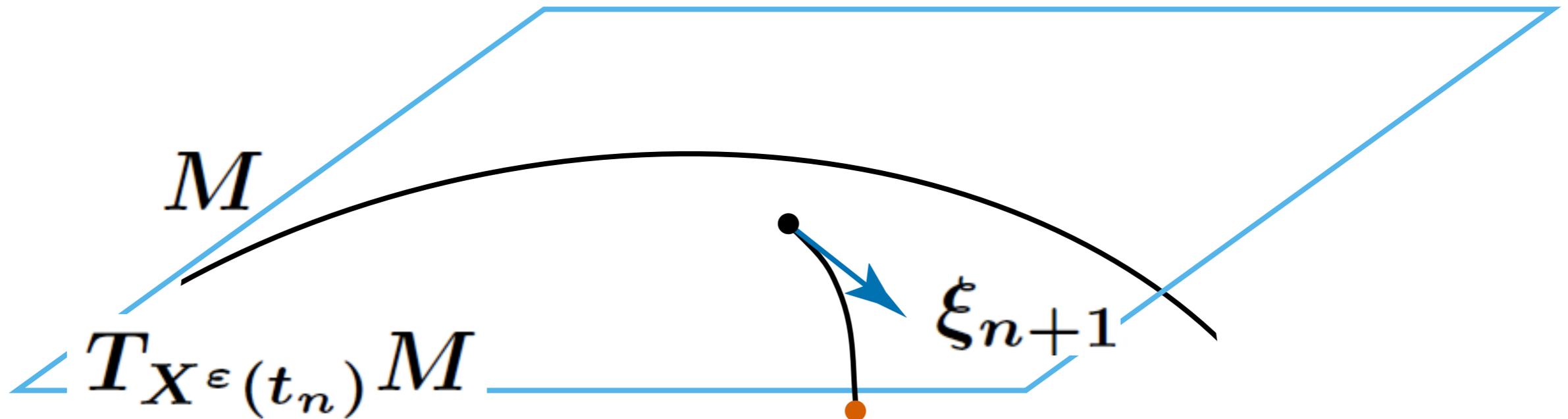


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$$d\rho^\varepsilon(t) \leq 2\sqrt{2}dW^\varepsilon(t) - Kd\rho^\varepsilon(t)dt + o(1)$$

with high probability ( $\rightarrow 1$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ )

(We can avoid to extract " $L_t$ ")

## Invariance principle for $X^\varepsilon$

- **Tightness**
- Uniqueness of the mart. pbm. for  $\partial_t + \Delta_g(\cdot)$

## Key estimate for tightness

$$\overline{\lim}_{R \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{\varepsilon} \mathbb{P}_x \left[ \sup_{0 \leq s \leq t} d_{g(s)}(o, X^\varepsilon(s)) > R \right] = 0$$

(cf. [K.-Philipowski '09] for  $X(t)$ )

## Idea of the Proof

- (discrete) Itô formula for  $d_{g(t)}(o, X^\varepsilon(t))$

## Related results

- The case  $\partial_t g(t) \equiv 0$ 
  - SDE approach: [Kendall '86], [Cranston '91], [F.-Y. Wang '94, '05]
  - Approx. by RWs: [von Renesse '04], [K. '10]
- Coupling by parallel transport
  - [McCann & Topping '10]  
 $K = 0$ ,  $M$ : cpt. via optimal transport
  - [Arnaudon, Coulibaly & Thalmaier '10]  
via stoch. diff. geom.

**§4 Coupling by  $\mathcal{L}$ -parallel transport  
(joint work with R. Philipowski)**

## Perelman's $\mathcal{L}$ -distance

$$\gamma : [\tau_1, \tau_2] \rightarrow M, [\tau_1, \tau_2] \subset [T_1, T_2]$$

$$\mathcal{L}(\gamma) := \int_{\tau_1}^{\tau_2} \sqrt{\tau} \left( |\dot{\gamma}(\tau)|_{g(\tau)}^2 + R_{g(\tau)}(\gamma(\tau)) \right) d\tau$$

$$L(\tau_1, x; \tau_2, y) := \inf \left\{ \mathcal{L}(\gamma) \left| \begin{array}{l} \gamma(\tau_1) = x, \\ \gamma(\tau_2) = y \end{array} \right. \right\}$$

## Normalization

Given  $T_1 \leq \bar{\tau}_1 < \bar{\tau}_2 \leq T_2$ ,

$$\Theta(t, x, y) := 2(\sqrt{\bar{\tau}_2 t} - \sqrt{\bar{\tau}_1 t}) L(\bar{\tau}_1 t, x; \bar{\tau}_2 t, y) \\ - 2m(\sqrt{\bar{\tau}_2 t} - \sqrt{\bar{\tau}_1 t})^2$$

## Theorem 2 [K. & Philipowski '10]

Suppose  $\partial_t g(t) = 2 \text{Ric}_{g(t)}$ ,

$$\sup_{x \in M, \tau \in [T_1, T_2]} |\text{Rm}_{g(\tau)}|_{g(\tau)}(x) < \infty$$

$\Rightarrow \exists (X_1(\tau), X_2(\tau))$ : coupling of  $g(\tau)$ -BMs

s.t.  $(\Theta(t, X_1(\bar{\tau}_1 t), X_2(\bar{\tau}_2 t)))_{t \in [1, T_2/\bar{\tau}_2]}$

is a **supermartingale**

$\Rightarrow$  recover the monotonicity of the normalized  
 $\mathcal{L}$ -optimal transport in [Topping '09]

## Strategy of the Proof

- Properties of  $\mathcal{L}$ -distance  
being analogous to the Riem. distance
  - $\mathcal{L}$ -geodesic, 1st & 2nd variation of  $\mathcal{L}$ -length,  
 $\mathcal{L}$ -index lemma,  $\mathcal{L}$ -cut locus
- Approximation by RWs
- Coupling of  $dX_1^\varepsilon(\bar{\tau}_1 t)$  and  $dX_2^\varepsilon(\bar{\tau}_2 t)$  by  
spacetime-parallel transport along  $\mathcal{L}$ -geodesic